



The California Science Center is pleased to provide special insights to our generous supporters, Members and donors. Here's what's in this issue of *The Nucleus*:

[EcoExplorations – Scamper, Slide and Soar on By](#)

[Science Beyond the Center](#)

[New ExploraStore Curbside Pickup](#)

[Partners In Learning Annual Giving Program](#)

[Virtual Backgrounds](#)

[Renew Your Membership and Support Science Learning for Everyone](#)

Science Center family, we hope that you and your loved ones are safe, healthy and continuing to learn. During these incredibly difficult times, your vital support enables the California Science Center to continue our mission to inspire science learning in everyone. As we adapt to challenges and find new ways to serve the community with educational programming and exhibits, we reaffirm our commitment to the Science Center's core values of accessibility and inclusiveness that are at the heart of everything we do.

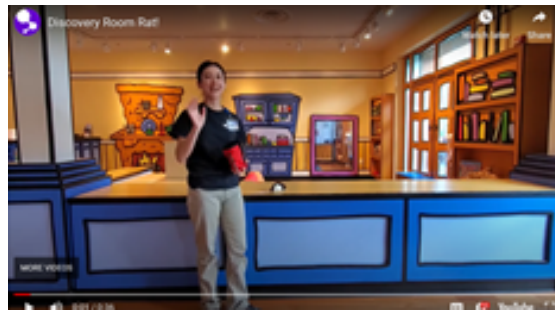
THANK YOU!

ECOEXPLORATIONS – SCAMPER, SLIDE AND SOAR ON BY

[EcoExplorations](#), one of the dynamic features of our [Science Beyond the Center](#) online portal, is revealing behind-the-scenes interactions with our animals, the people who take care of them and the systems that help us keep them healthy. In addition to

aquatic animals, the California Science Center has numerous animal ambassadors that spend their time on land and in our skies.

Keeper Viani Gomez takes us to the Ecosystems Family Discovery Room to meet ambassador [Rizzo the rat](#) whose species is a world traveler.



"Rats are pretty cool, they are resilient, they've adapted to all kinds of environments, they make their way all around the globe and inhabit every continent, except Antarctica." – Viani Gomez



"You can support conservation by supporting organizations like the World Parrot Trust and by visiting AZA-accredited (Association of Zoos & Aquariums-accredited) institutions like ours to see parrots in person. Because we're temporarily closed and you can't come see our bird today, we want to use this video to bring him home to you." – Erin Hoff

In the Stuck at Home Science video [Meet a Ball Python](#), Educator Evelyn Serrano interviews Keeper Alex Soto as he describes the importance of enrichment to reduce the stress levels of animals, make them more comfortable in their environment and improve their overall welfare. Alex shares his favorite story about adding vines, plants and moss to the environment of the prehensile-tailed skink to encourage more climbing and camouflage behaviors. Instead, the skink immediately explored and exercised, dismantling these new additions for an unanticipated enrichment experience!

Did you know that all parrots have curved beaks and four toes on each foot, two in the front and two behind, which makes it easy for them to grip onto trees? Celebrate parrots, comprised of macaws, cockatoos, lorikeets and more that are primarily from tropical and subtropical environments and are currently some of the most threatened species in the wild, and learn about what we can do to help with Keeper Erin Hoff and Radio, our ambassador [military macaw](#). Toward the end of the video, be sure to check out the trained behaviors our keeper team has been working on with Radio to give him enrichment and help with his care.



"Animal enrichment is a process that involves the enhancement or improvement of an animal's environment to encourage their natural behaviors ... like climbing or foraging." – Alex Soto

The California Science Center is meeting a higher standard of care for terrestrial and aquatic animals as one of 240 institutions that are accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) in 49 states and 13 countries. All of the institutions share a commitment to conservation, education, science and animal care. Accredited institutions like the Science Center must provide enrichment and undertake welfare assessments for each animal. Institutions are also evaluated on its veterinary program, conservation research and education programs. Once accredited, institutions are re-evaluated every five years. Come and join us behind-the-scenes to see what we're doing to uphold these standards in [California Science Center: Animal Care and AZA](#).

SCIENCE BEYOND THE CENTER



Missing your visits to the California Science Center? [Science Beyond the Center](#) gives you behind-the-scenes access to Science Center exhibits in ways you've never seen before.

This week, [Ever Wonder](#) why we have so many animals?

Our latest podcast episode features Dr. Chuck Kopczak, Curator of Life Sciences for the California Science Center. Hear from Chuck about why we display animals at the Science Center and what goes into selecting different species for display.

You can also take tours through [Space Shuttle Endeavour](#) and hear exclusive interviews with astronauts. Explore amazing images and insights from our curators and check out some videos from our traveling exhibitions. New content will be added regularly.

Bookmark the [Science Beyond the Center](#) page and check back often to see what's new!

NEW EXPLORASTORE CURBSIDE PICKUP



For a limited time, same day curbside pickup is now available within 2 hours from order confirmation between 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pacific time, Monday through Saturday only.

Show off your support of NASA with a wide variety of items from tanks and tees to water bottles! Members and other generous supporters receive 10% off all web orders until the end of September as well as free shipping on all orders \$50 and over. Use promo code: **MemberSummer10** at checkout.

[Shop Now](#)

PARTNERS IN LEARNING ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM

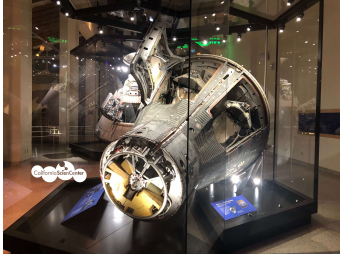


Looking for a deeper connection with the California Science Center? Please consider joining the Partners in Learning annual giving program to help sustain the hands-on exhibits, programs and operations that make the California Science Center a world-class educational resource and treasured family destination.

With our doors temporarily closed to the public, the support of our Partners in Learning donors is vital to helping the California Science Center continue our mission to stimulate curiosity and inspire science learning in everyone. We welcome your involvement!

Become a Partner in Learning

VIRTUAL BACKGROUNDS



Download and use these free virtual backgrounds featuring some of our favorite scenes from the California Science Center during your video conference meetings.

The Mercury-Redstone 2 space capsule (foreground) shines luminously while on glorious display with the Gemini 11 space capsule at the California Science Center.

Download

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT SCIENCE LEARNING FOR EVERYONE



During these challenging and uncertain times, your support as a Member is critical to our ability to continue serving our community with free online science learning opportunities.

Please renew your Membership today in support of our mission to inspire science learning in everyone.



If your Membership is not due for renewal and you are in a position to make an additional gift, of any amount, we invite your contribution.

Your generous support will help sustain the California Science Center as a trusted educational resource while we are temporarily closed to the public. Thank you!



Plan today, make a difference tomorrow.

Because you value science as much as we do, help us continue our mission by leaving a gift in your will to the California Science Center. Visit our website for a free Estate Planning Guide.

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